

**CONTACT: Jeff Lustgarten or George McQuade
Cerrell Associates, 323/466-3445**

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NEW OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS TAKE OVER AT SCAG'S 2002 ANNUAL RETREAT

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New Deputy Director Also Announced At Annual Retreat

LOS ANGELES – At its 2002 Annual Retreat on June 6, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) announced the appointments of the chairs and vice chairs of its Administration Committee and its three primary policy committees. Also announced at the annual meeting was the appointment of a new deputy executive director.

The retreat marked the first meeting administered by SCAG's 2002-03 officers, who were formally selected at the agency's May meeting. Los Angeles City Councilman Hal Bernson presided over the meeting as agency president, along with Brea City Mayor Pro Tem Bev Perry as first vice president and Orange County Supervisor Chuck Smith as second vice president. Each officer will serve in their position until the SCAG General Assembly in May 2003.

Councilman Bernson has been a long-time regional leader not only with SCAG, but also through service on such boards as the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and the Intercity Rail Authority.

Mayor Pro Tem Perry has been an extremely active Regional Council member for SCAG, and has also served on such regional boards as the Orange County Council of Governments, the Four Corners Transportation Policy Group, the Local Government Commission, and the Assembly Speaker's Commission on Regionalism.

Supervisor Smith serves on the OCTA Board, as well as the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, the Southern California Regional Airport Authority, the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission, the Regional Transportation Agencies Coalition, the Urban Counties Caucus. Prior to his election as county supervisor in 1996, Smith served for 10 years on the Westminster City Council.

In terms of SCAG's committee leadership, Temecula Mayor Ron Roberts was re-elected as chair of SCAG's Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC), and Grand Terrace Mayor Pro Tem Lee Ann Garcia was re-appointed TCC's vice chair. The TCC is responsible for examining transportation projects, proposals and priorities of regional significance prior to their final consideration by the Regional Council, SCAG's primary decision-making body.

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Mayor Roberts began his service on the Temecula City Council in 1992. He has held positions on numerous boards and commissions including the League of California Cities' Riverside Division Executive Committee, National League of Cities' Transportation and Communications Committee and the Riverside County Transportation Commission's Executive Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia was first elected to the Grand Terrace City Council in 1996. She was re-elected mayor pro tem in 2000. Garcia is a member of the Institute of Local Self-Government, and serves on the governing boards of the League of California Cities' San Bernardino Division Board of Directors. She has been actively involved with SCAG since 1996, and also serves on the Membership and Communications Task Force, Goods Movement Advisory Committee and Regional Transportation Demand Management.

City of Rancho Cucamonga Mayor William J. Alexander was elected chair of the SCAG Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Committee, and La Palma Councilwoman Alta Duke was selected vice chair. The CEHD Committee works to promote livability throughout the region, emphasizing economic development, "smart growth" planning strategies, regional housing policy and other related issues.

Mayor Alexander has served on the Rancho Cucamonga City Council since 1988, and in 1994 became the city's first mayor to serve a four-year term (he was re-elected in 1998). During his tenure, he has been elected to the Foothill Fire Protection District for 11 years, and he has also served concurrently on the city's Public Safety Commission.

Councilwoman Duke was first elected to the La Palma City Council in 1996. She was re-elected in 2000. She is a member of the Women in Leisure Services, California Park and Recreation Society and California Association of Coordinated Transportation, and serves on the governing boards of the Orange County Council of Governments and the Orange County Library Board of Directors.

SCAG named Port Hueneme Councilwoman Toni Young as the newest chair of its Energy and Environment Committee (EEC), and Imperial County Supervisor Hank Kuiper was selected vice chair. The EEC is responsible for analyzing and advising on policy issues of regional significance that may have an impact on energy resources or the environment.

Councilwoman Young was elected to the Port Hueneme City Council in November 1992. She was the first woman to be elected to the city council in 30 years, and was also the city's first woman mayor. In addition to her service on the EEC, including a one-year term as the committee's vice chair, she has previously chaired SCAG's Solid Waste Task Force.

Supervisor Kuiper was elected to the Imperial County Board of Supervisors in 2000 and currently serves as board chairman. He also serves as president of the Imperial County Division of the League of California Cities. Prior to his election to the second district of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, Kuiper served for twelve years as a member of the El Centro City Council, including three years as mayor.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Jon Mikels, SCAG's immediate past president, was selected to serve as chair of SCAG's Administration Committee, with Lake Forest City Councilman Richard Dixon serving as vice chair. Supervisor Mikels was elected to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors in 1986 and re-elected in 1990, 1994 and 1998, serving as chairman of the board in 1993-1994 and 1999-2000. He serves on the numerous governing boards, and previously served two-terms as president of SCAG in 1986-87 and 2001-2002.

Mayor Dixon was first elected to the Lake Forest City Council in 1991, and has served two terms as mayor. He is a member of the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG), first vice president of the Orange County Division of the League of California Cities, and representative to the League of California Cities' Transportation and Communication Committee.

In addition to the new officers and committee leadership, it was announced that Jim Gosnell has been appointed to serve as the agency's new deputy executive director. Gosnell, who has more than 25 years experience in a variety of transportation, housing, land use and other urban planning matters, was selected for the post after an extensive national search. Gosnell previously served as SCAG's director of Planning and Policy Development, the agency department primarily responsible for, among other items, development of the Regional Transportation Plan. As the deputy executive director, Gosnell will serve as part of a two-person executive unit, advising the executive director on all matters regarding policy development, member outreach, and the agency's day-to-day operations.

Throughout the past three decades, SCAG has evolved into the largest regional planning organization in the United States, functioning as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for six counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura. The Southern California region encompasses a population exceeding 16 million persons in an area of more than 38,000 square miles. As the designated MPO, SCAG is mandated by the federal government to research and develop plans for transportation, growth management, hazardous waste management, and air quality. For more information about the work of the Southern California Association of Governments, please visit the SCAG website at www.scag.ca.gov.